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THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017
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Schools could face $9.3M in reductions

Indiana lawmakers say the Pledge of Allegiance on Organization Day at the Statehouse on Tuesday. Indiana schools could face $9.3 million in cuts unless lawmakers provide more money. PHOTOS BY KELLY WILKINSON/INDYSTAR

House Speaker Brian Bosma said the General Assembly will not have a "small budget session" this year but could address limited fiscal issues.

High student count at issue; lawmakers may need to appropriate more funds

Tony Cook and Arika Herron
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Indiana schools could face $9.3 million in cuts unless lawmakers provide more money.

The potential reductions would translate to about $315,000 for Indianapolis Public Schools and more than $100,000 for many suburban districts, according to a school funding simulation circulating among legislative leaders and obtained by IndyStar.

At issue is higher-than-anticipated public school enrollment. The state's annual student count in September found about 6,000 more public school students than lawmakers had budgeted for when they passed the two-year state budget last year.

As a result, lawmakers will have to decide whether to appropriate additional school funding when they convene in January for the 2018 legislative session. That could present some challenges since lawmakers don't typically deal with budget issues in even-numbered years.

> **"We're going to take a long look at the count..."**
> **David Long**
> President Pro Tempore

House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, said the General Assembly will not have a "small budget session" this year but could address limited fiscal issues.

"This will be one of the few issues we might address," he said.

His counterpart in the Senate, President Pro Tempore David Long, said Senate Republicans have "every intention" of trying to fix the problem.

"We're going to take a long look at the count, then we're going to discuss potentially moving some money in — even though it's a non-budget year — to address that shortfall," the Fort Wayne Republican said.

See SCHOOLS, Page 8A

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State attorney general: CBD illegal

Kaitlin L Lange
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

After months of confusion over the legal status of cannabidiol oil, Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill deemed it illegal in almost every circumstance.

In April, conflicting views among state agencies on CBD oil laws emerged after Gov. Eric Holcomb signed a bill creating a registry for epileptic patients who want to ease their seizures by using CBD oil, a cannabis extract.

Curtis Hill

Hill on Tuesday said that is the only condition under which using CBD oil is legal in the state. However, it is unclear how those patients would obtain the oil since it would be illegal to sell it in the state, under Hill's interpretation.

"Simply put, cannabidiol is a schedule 1 controlled substance because marijuana is a schedule 1 controlled

See CBD, Page 12A

Pence's hometown visits bust OT budget

Columbus mayor says it's a good problem to have

Maureen Groppe
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

WASHINGTON – There's pride in being the hometown of the vice president.

But there's also a cost.

The Columbus police and fire departments are running out of budgeted overtime pay to cover visits by Vice President Mike Pence.

The city council on Tuesday gave preliminary approval to an ordinance increasing the overtime budgets for the departments by a combined $70,000. That's about an 18 percent increase in the $390,388 initially approved for overtime pay this year.

See PENCE, Page 7A

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